

Be Merciful, Deal Justly, Judge Righteously, and Do Good Continually

It is truly an honor to speak on this occasion. The man whose life we celebrate today has had a profound affect on my life, as he has on the lives of so many others, including all of you here today. I am also honored to represent those who were blessed by his powerful presence as a professor of music at Brigham Young University and as a merciful, just exemplar of goodness and teacher of righteousness.

Let me begin my remarks by quoting from counsel given by the prophet Alma to one of his sons. *My purpose in doing so is to create a context that may help us more fully appreciate the wonderful life and influence of A. Harold Goodman.*

“Now there must needs be a space betwixt the time of death and the time of the resurrection.” (Alma 40:6)

“And now, concerning this space of time, what becometh of the souls of men is the thing which I have inquired diligently of the Lord to know; and this is the thing of which I do know.” (Alma 40:9)

“Behold, it has been made known unto me by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men ... are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow.” (Alma 40:11-12)

“Behold, it is requisite and just, according to the power and resurrection of Christ, that the soul of man should be restored to its body, and that every part of the body should be restored to itself. And it is requisite with the justice of God that men should be judged according to their works; and if their works were good in this life, and the desires of their hearts were good, that they should also ... be restored unto that which is good.” (Alma 41:2-3)

“O, my son, ...the meaning of the word restoration is to bring back again ...good for that which is good; righteous for that which is righteous; just for that which is just; merciful for that which is merciful. Therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again. For that which ye do send out shall return unto you again, and be restored....” (Alma 41:13-14)

Allow me to share a few short stories that illustrate Hal’s mercy, his just dealings with others, his righteous judgment, and his desire to do good continually. *I do so with a sincere hope that each of you will be led to remember the experiences you have enjoyed*

with Hal that affirmed his grasp on these godly attributes that are so essential to our eternal happiness.

Be Merciful

As Chair of the Department of Music for fourteen years, perhaps the longest term of any leader of that organization, Hal was responsible to distribute a gift from the University to each member of the Department's faculty and staff at Christmas time. This was supposed to be accomplished simply by informing them of the distribution date, time, and location. Invariably there were a number who forgot or were unable to pick up their gift at the appointed time. Year after year he packed up the gifts that remained (and there were many) and delivered them personally without fanfare or complaint. I know this because I inherited Hal's merciful practice when I became Chair of the Music Department. He didn't judge those he visited as indifferent, lazy, or forgetful. He just did the right thing. He was merciful. I learned a great lesson about mercy from this simple, quiet, yearly act of kindness.

Deal justly

While Hal was serving as department chair a colleague tried to discredit him and call his integrity into question because of minor disagreements. There was even an attempt to stir up contention over the matter. Hal was in a position to block his colleague's advancement and might even have sought termination. Instead, he spent a considerable amount of time trying to understand his colleague's point of view, asked those who had become involved and upset over the matter to be patient, and then carefully restored wisdom and order. He was more concerned with peaceful resolution than retribution. I saw him deal justly with one who had not dealt justly with him.

As a young faculty member I often let myself get overloaded. It was too tempting to say yes to every opportunity without fully counting the cost. In the midst of incredible pressures, mostly of my own making, I sent him a rather blunt memo laying the blame squarely on his shoulders. The memo was long, much too long. I wanted him to know how rough he had made life for me. It was placed on his desk late on a Friday afternoon. When I arrived at my office Saturday morning to teach several trumpet students there was a short note on my desk. It simply said: "See me right away. I'll be in my office this morning." He knew how to get my attention! After a couple of hours of teaching, I hesitantly approached his office. He wasn't defensive, but it also didn't take him long to address every point in my memo. There was no ranker or condescension. He was kind and concerned. We talked about how to avoid similar situations in the future and how we could work together to avoid misunderstandings. He taught me how to communicate clearly and without guile that day. He dealt with me justly.

Judge righteously

While an undergraduate I applied for graduate study at the school I thought would be best. I wasn't accepted. Discouraged, I sought counsel from Hal because I trusted his judgment and positive attitude. He invited me to his home. After assessing my plight he suggested a course of action designed to empower me to move in another direction. I was subsequently accepted into a program with a major teacher that was world-class, much

better than the teacher I had originally wanted to study with. He judged me and my goal righteously and blessed me with the freedom and faith to find my way.

A number of years later I had a very difficult professional decision to make. It was a decision I sensed would impact faculty and students for a very long time. It had to be right. But there were contending forces involved that made clear thinking difficult. I was full of fear and misgivings. I called and Hal invited me again to his home. His ability to see through and beyond opposing opinions by righteously judging the motives of those involved opened up a completely new vision to my mind and heart. I left our conversation filled with faith and love, prepared to make a decision that would ultimately bless hundreds of lives and careers. Hal taught me how to judge righteously.

Do good continually

Scott Boyter shared the following experience with me a few days ago. “In December 1969 I was living on the west side of Provo in a student apartment. One of my three roommates was Len Whitaker, our student ward Sunday School President. Late one afternoon a knock came at the door and when I opened the door, there stood Hal with a case of oranges asking for Len. Len was not home at the time, but I invited Hal into the apartment. I wanted to know who he was. He introduced himself with a smile and said that he had a small gift he wanted to give Len before Len left for Christmas. Hal was the Stake President at the time. I was deeply impressed.”

A few years later Scott was working for the College of Fine Arts and Communications and was invited by Hal to serve as business manager and accountant for the Department of Music. Scott shared another story that is vintage Hal Goodman: “In 1979 I was struggling, trying to move into my home in Orem. All I had was one car and I needed some help moving our belongings. I didn’t have any family living in the area so I was stumped as to how I was going to accomplish this. I happened to mention my plight to Hal and he quickly volunteered his old green Dodge pickup. He said he was going out of town so he couldn’t help me but he offered the services of his truck for as long as I needed it. I must have made 15 trips back and forth across town moving our little earthly treasures. Hal never mentioned that I re-fill the gas tank upon returning the truck, but of course I did. I’ve worked for a number people in my life but no one has ever been more generous or caring than Hal. He was a friend, a mentor, and a leader.”

In a similar vein, my wife Diane reminded me a few days ago that Hal often came to our home with a modest gift after the birth of a child. He paid attention to the small things that had little to do with our professional association but everything to do with personal relationships and trust. Diane also observed that Hal inherited a family name that describes him perfectly: “good man.”

There are so many stories that could be told of Hal’s service at BYU that characterized mercy, just dealings with others, righteous judgment, or doing good continually. To quote Alma once again: “Therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have

justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again. For that which ye do send out shall return unto you again, and be restored....” (41:13-14) I feel certain that our friend, mentor, father, grandfather, husband, and exemplar, A. Harold Goodman, is experiencing a restoration of goodness, mercy, justice, and judgment just as Alma promised. President Wilford Woodruff taught: “The same Priesthood exist on the other side of the veil.... Every Apostle, every Seventy, every Elder, etc., who has died in the faith, as soon as he passes to the other side of the veil, enters into the work of the ministry.” (in *Journal of Discourses*, 22:333-34) Because of his goodness and preparation, we can be assured that Hal is already engaged in a new and exciting priesthood assignment.

Finally, Hal Goodman loves the restored gospel and finds great happiness in serving his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His eternal companion, Naomi, knows this better than any of us. She knows how absolutely committed he is to practicing righteousness and holiness. His highest objective is to become like Christ, to have Naomi by his side forever, and to enjoy an eternal association with family members and valiant friends.

I pray for the strength and courage to follow Hal’s example. He has taught us how to follow the Savior with full purpose of heart. I am deeply grateful for the influence of this man of integrity, strength, and wisdom.

K. Newell Dayley
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